

MARVEL FRONTIER COMICS™

#4 of 4

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DANCES WITH DEMONS™



DIRECT EDITION



SIMON JOWETT • CHARLIE ADLARD

MARVEL FRONTIER COMICS™

presents

DANCES WITH DEMONS

#4 of 4

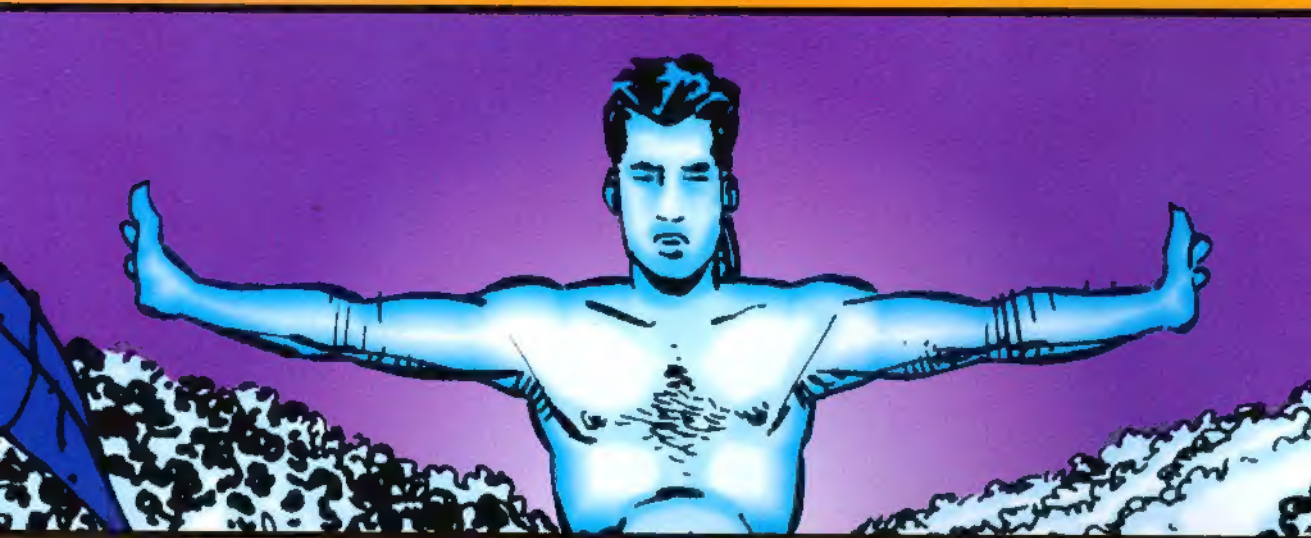
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BETTER NOT TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
CONCENTRATE ON DRIVING.

BUT HER CONCENTRATION WAS SHOT.
IT WAS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO
REMEMBER THE TIME SECONDS
AFTER LOOKING AT HER WATCH.

IT WAS AS IF SHE ONLY HAD
WILLPOWER ENOUGH TO AIM
THE CAR AT THE HORIZON AND
KEEP HER FOOT ON THE GAS.

SHE KNEW THIS WAS NOT
HER CAR. HER DAD HAD
BOUGHT HER A NEAT
LITTLE HONDA FOR HER
SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

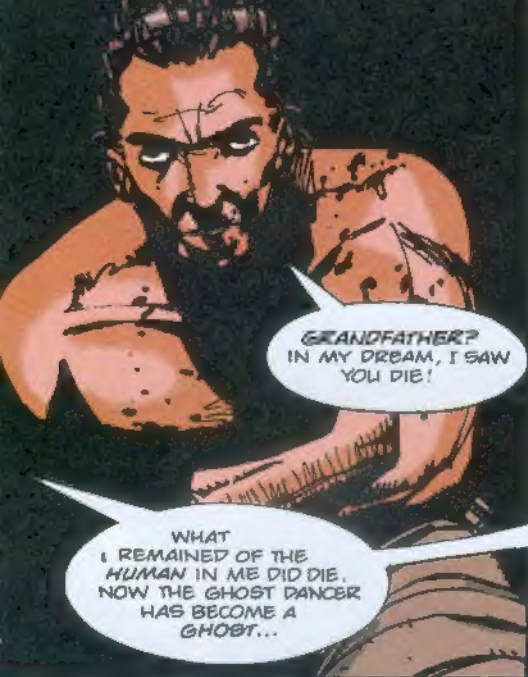
THE CAR'S OWNER, THE CITY SHE
HAS DRIVEN FROM, HER
DESTINATION ARE ALL LOST IN THE
FOG THAT HAS SETTLED OVER HER MIND.

SHE CONCENTRATES ON THE
DRIVING. AND ON A NAME...

...JAMES OWL...

JAMES!





GRANDFATHER?
IN MY DREAM, I SAW
YOU DIE!

...AS DID MY
PREDECESSORS...YOUR
PREDECESSORS..

GRAND-
FATHER,
WHAT--

WE ARE
NOT HERE TO GUIDE
YOU, JAMES. THAT IS NOT
THE GHOST DANCER'S
WAY,

NO!
GRANDFATHER,
PLEASE!

OURS IS
THE WAY OF THE
GATE-KEEPER WHO CAN
NEVER PASS INTO THE
PARADISE HE
GUARDS.

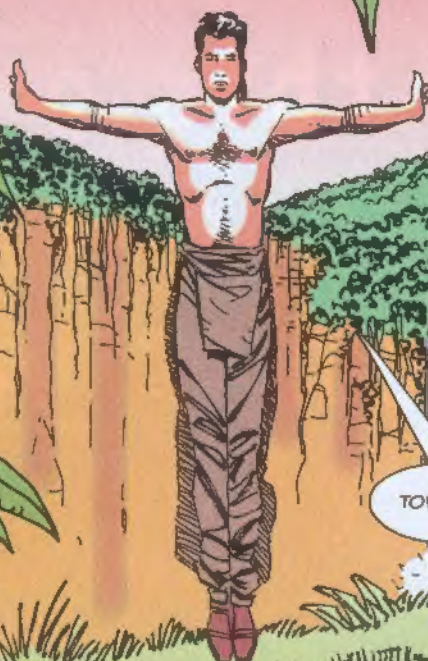
OURS IS
THE SHAMAN'S WAY,
THE SIN-EATER'S,
LIVING SACRIFICES
IN A FALLEN
WORLD.

WE
ARE HERE TO
TEST YOU,
JAMES...

"...TO FIND WHETHER
YOU ARE WORTHY."

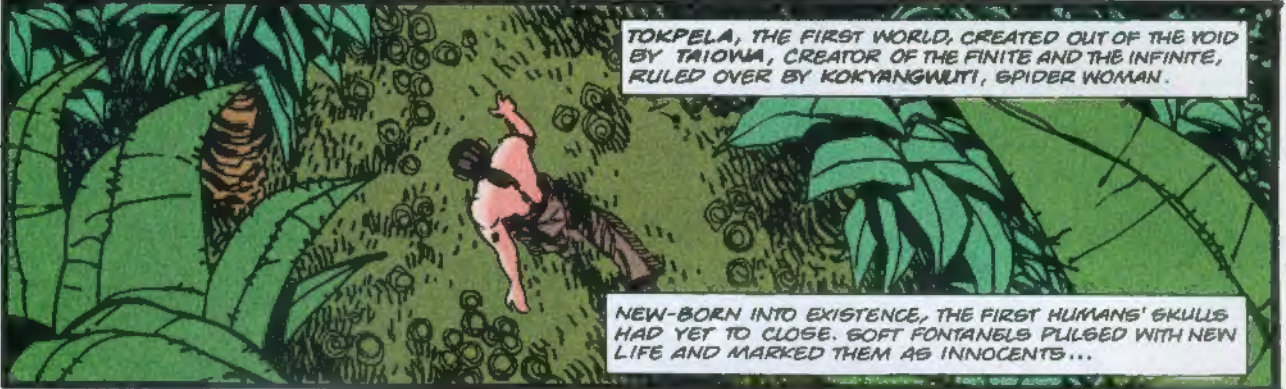
A COCKTAIL OF SCENTS FILLS MOUTH
AND NOSE. HEAVY LEAVES BRUSH
AGAINST RIBBED BARK AND THE
CHATTER OF STARTLED BIRDS FILTERS
DOWN THROUGH THE HIGH, DENSE CANOPY.

IMPOSSIBLY, HE REMEMBERS.




TOKPELA.

NOOO!




TOKPELA, THE FIRST WORLD, CREATED OUT OF THE VOID BY TAIOWA, CREATOR OF THE FINITE AND THE INFINITE, RULED OVER BY KOKYANGWUTI, SPIDER WOMAN.


NEW-BORN INTO EXISTENCE, THE FIRST HUMANS' SKULLS HAD YET TO CLOSE. GOFT FONTANELS PULGED WITH NEW LIFE AND MARKED THEM AS INNOCENTS...



THERE WAS NO SICKNESS, NO DISEASE, UNTIL EVIL ENTERED THE WORLD.



THE FIRST MEDICINE MEN STEPPED AWAY FROM THEIR FELLOWS AND ENTERED INTO AN ETERNAL DUEL WITH EVIL.



...THAT THEY MIGHT BETTER RECOGNIZE ITS MANY FORMS.

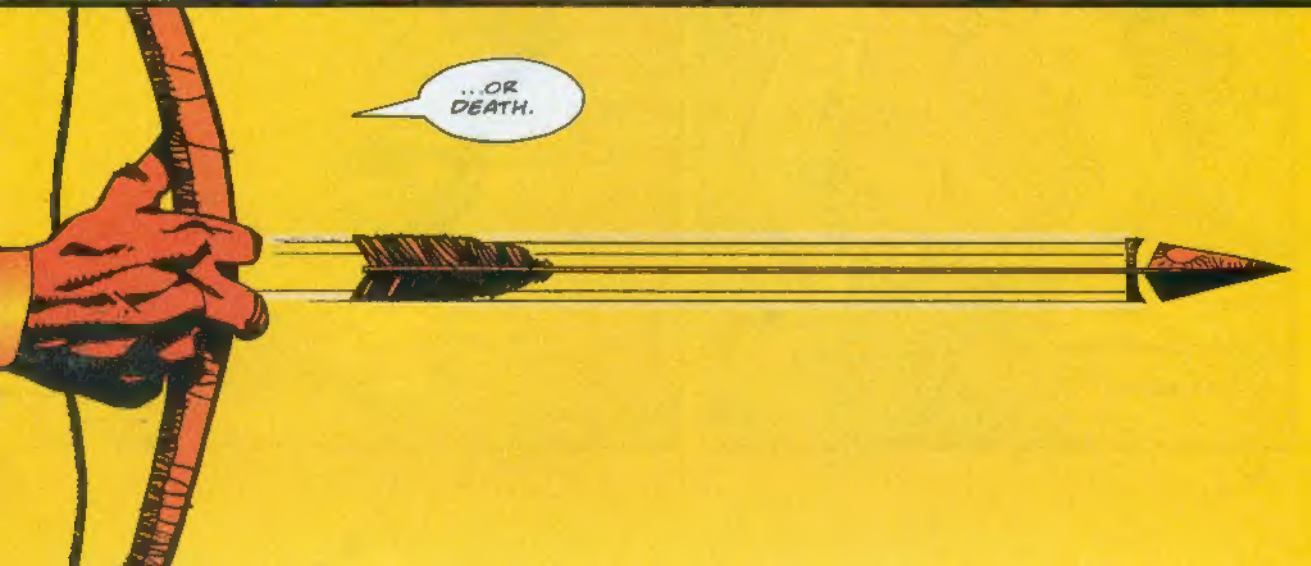


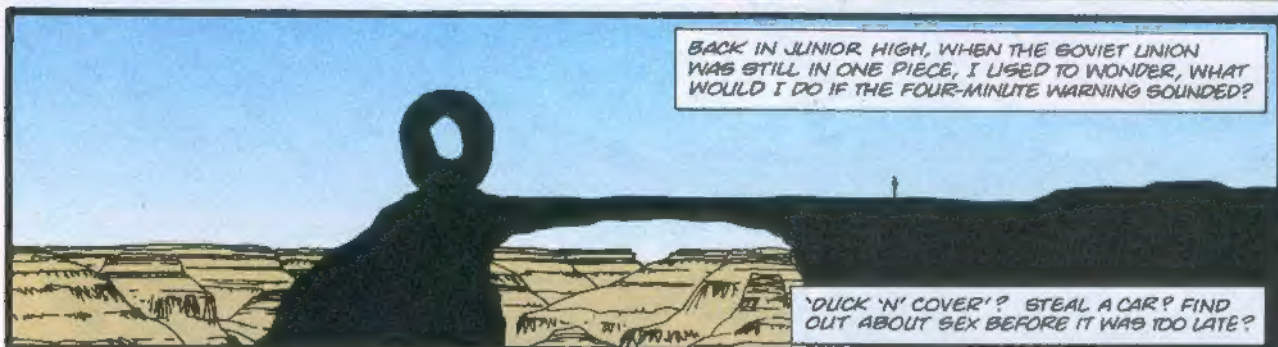
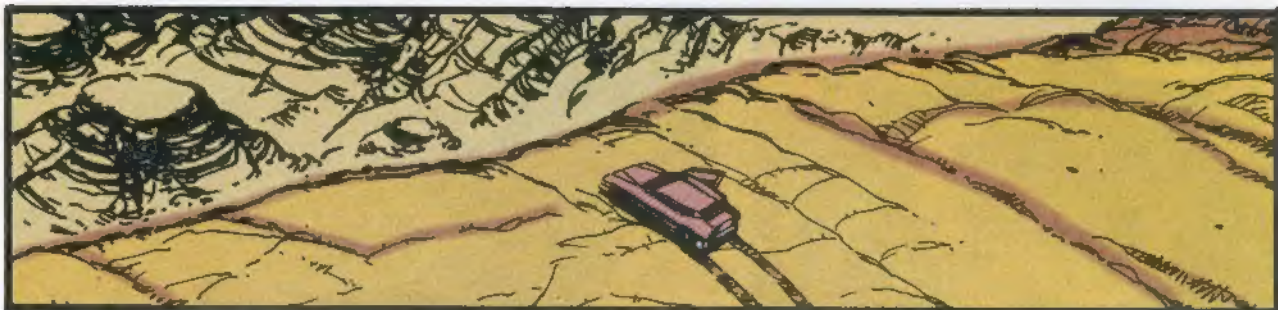
SUCH UNDERSTANDING WREAKED MANY CHANGES.

MOM...
DAD...IT'S NOT
FAIR!

TO FIGHT IT, THEY HAD
FIRST TO UNDERSTAND
IT, GROW CLOSER TO IT...

THIS WAS BORN
THE SECOND WORLD...





BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, WHEN THE SOVIET UNION WAS STILL IN ONE PIECE, I USED TO WONDER, WHAT WOULD I DO IF THE FOUR-MINUTE WARNING SOUNDED?

'DUCK 'N' COVER'? STEAL A CAR? FIND OUT ABOUT SEX BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE?



HANGING OUT IN THE GRAND CANYON, WAITING TO DIE, WAS NOT ONE OF THE OPTIONS I CONSIDERED.

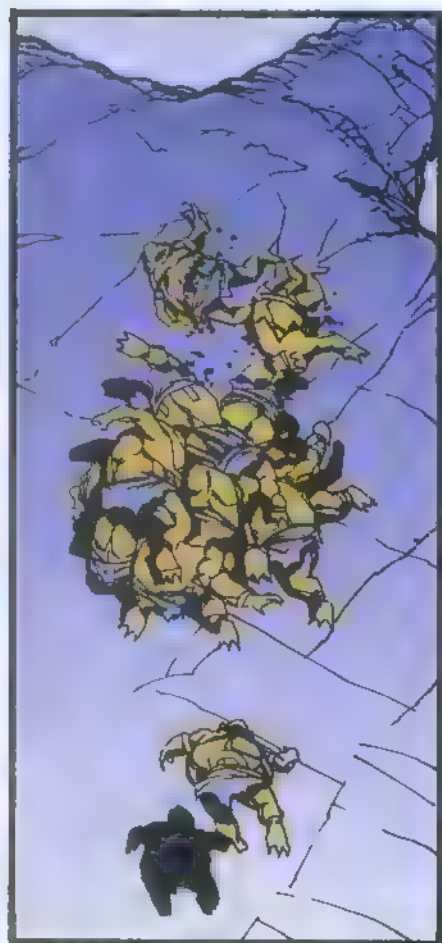
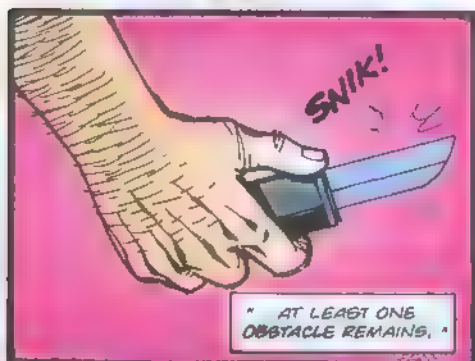
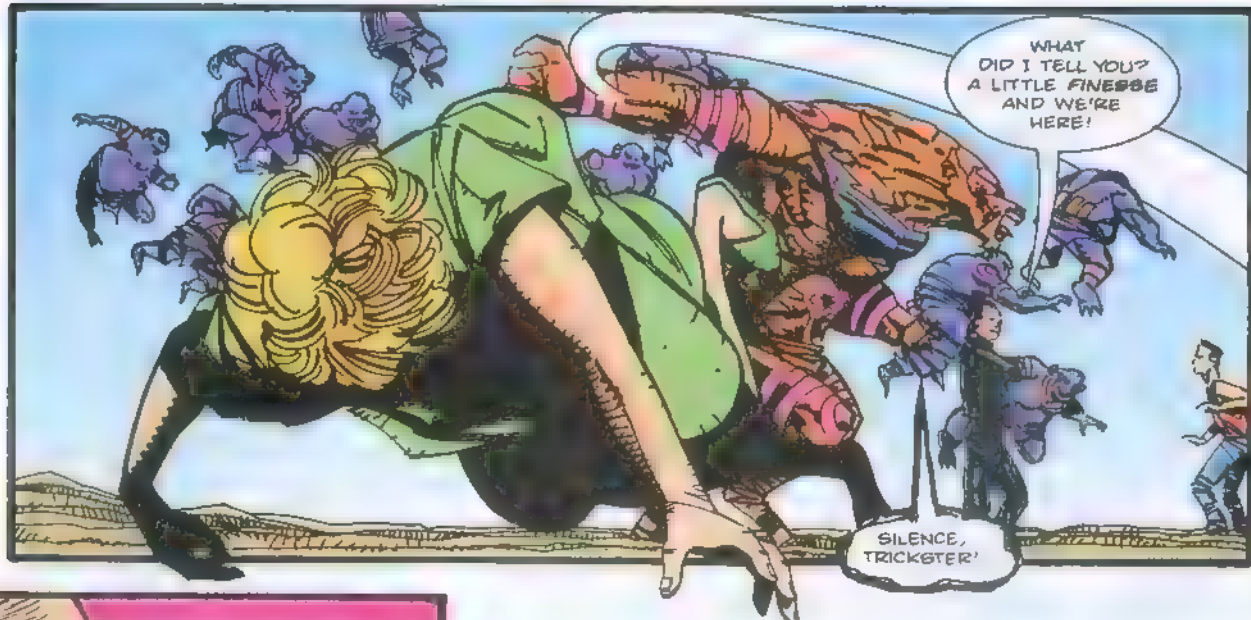


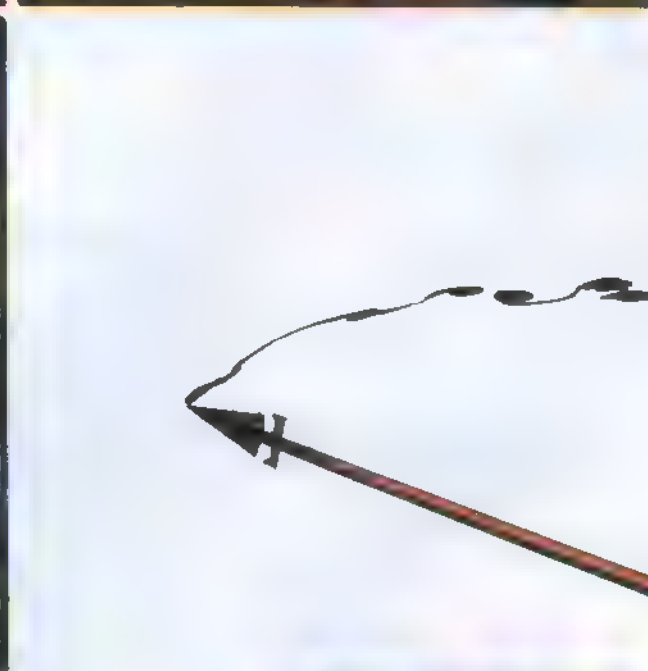
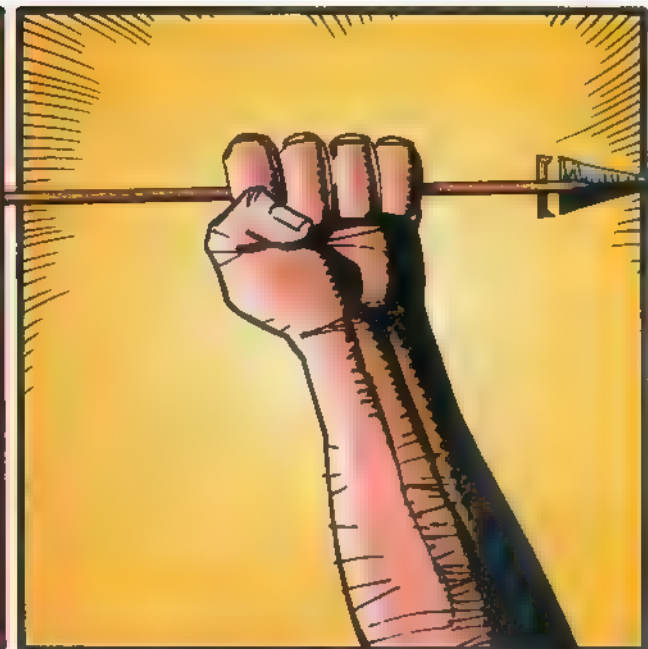
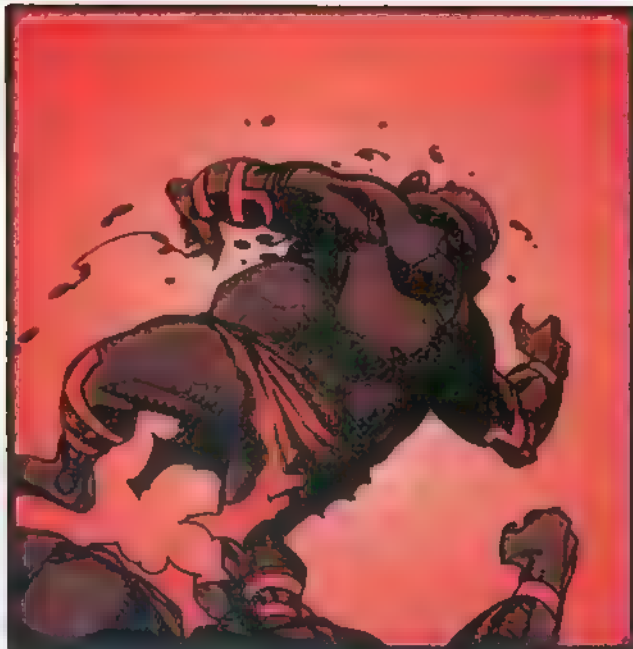
MIKEY...

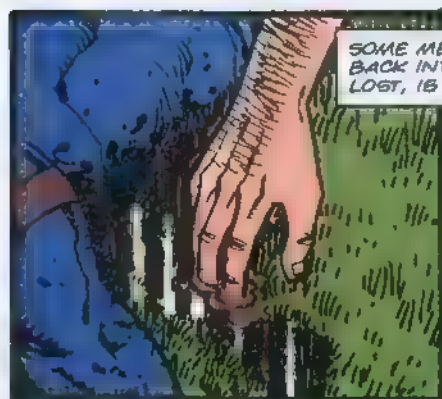
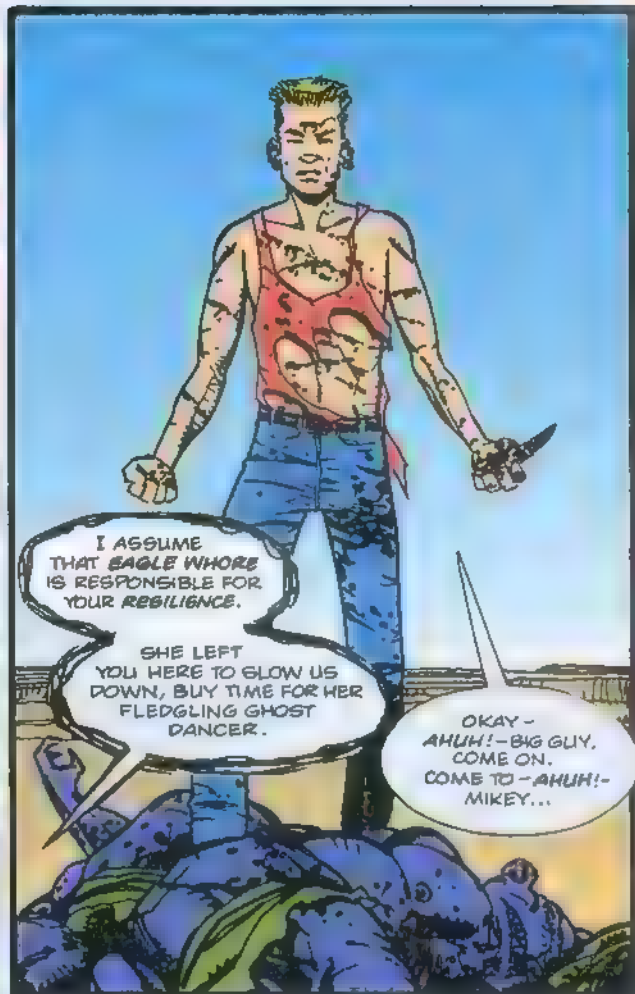
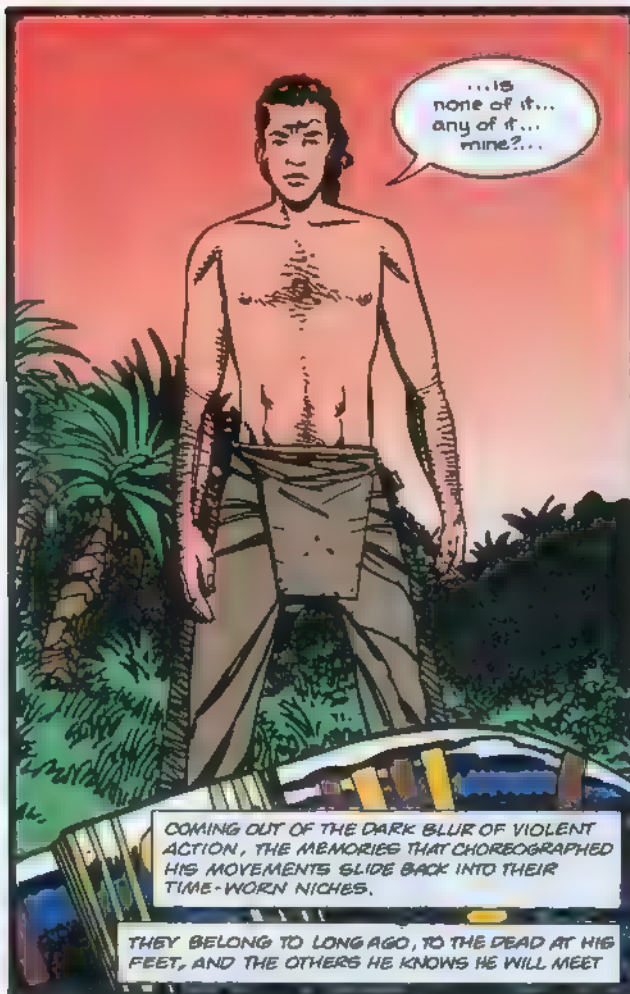




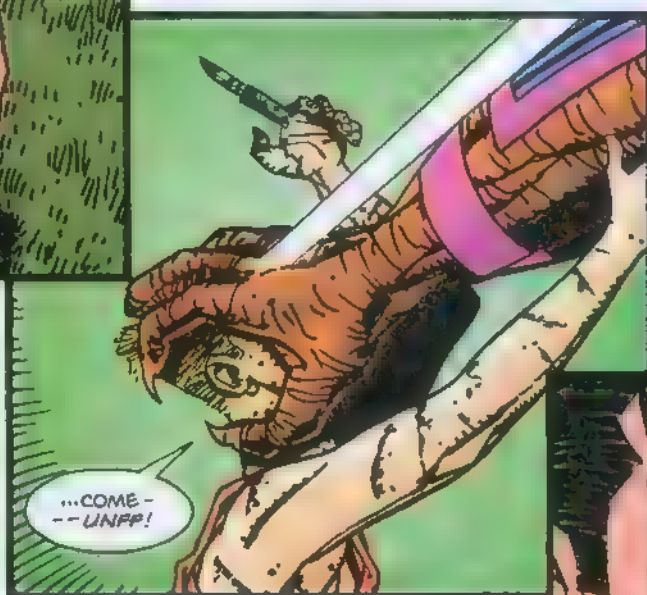
oh shit








SOME MEMORIES, HOWEVER, DO NOT SLIDE BACK INTO THE DARK. INNOCENCE, ONCE LOST, IS NEVER REGAINED.



THIS IS THE LESSON OF THE SECOND WORLD.





NOT SUCH A LONG WAIT AFTER ALL



MIKEY?

THE INHABITANTS OF THE SECOND WORLD GREW APART IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE. THEY SAW DIFFERENCES IN EACH OTHER. BEGAN TO SPEAK IN A BABBLE OF DIFFERENT TONGUES.



MIKEY!!

... DISPLEASED AND DISMAYED, SOTUKNANG, THE FIRST POWER, DESTROYED TOKPA

EVERY SECOND IT TAKES TO KILL
US, THE NEXT GHOST DANCER
COMES A SECOND NEARER...

...I SHALL TAKE A LONG TIME TO DIE

I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR YOU TO
APPEAR BUT AFTER
WHAT I DID TO YOU
LAST TIME...

.. YOU
SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN
BETTER!

WATCH
OUT, YOU OVER-
MUSCLED—

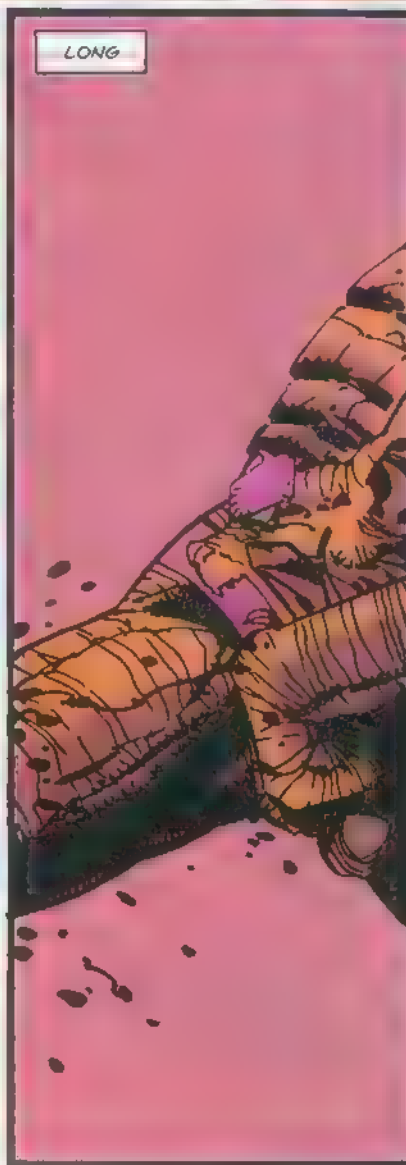
IDIOT!!!!



KILLING YOU,
HOWEVER...



TIME.





...too long...

DRUNK ON THE BLOOD OF HIS ANCESTORS.



...taking too damn long...

...mikey
...lori...

AWASH IN THE HISTORY OF HIS PEOPLE - THOSE WHO STEPPED AWAY FROM HUMANITY, WHO SAW THE SURVIVORS EMERGE FROM THE DEVASTATION INTO THE THIRD WORLD, KUGKURZA...



OKAY!
I KNOW THERE'S ONE OF YOU LEFT!

SHOW YOURSELF, YOU SON OF A BITCH! THIS HAS GONE ON TOO LONG--

ONLY TO REPEAT THEIR MISTAKES. SEALING THE PURE-OF-SPIRIT INSIDE THE HOLLOW STEMS OF TALL PLANTS, ANOTHER HOLOCAUST WAS LOOSED UPON THE EARTH..

.A FLOOD.



-ALREADY.

I HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR THIS.



...!CAUSE I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS AROUND!



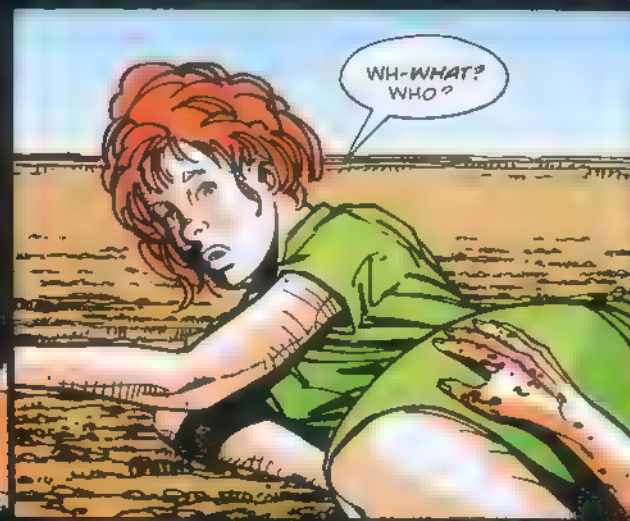
AT LAST!

PREPARE YOURSELF, UPSTART..

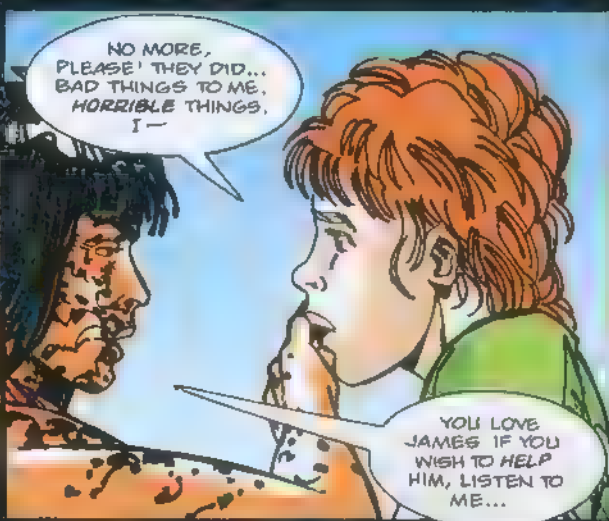


.. time still time

...YOUR SOUL, YOUR POWER, WILL SOON BE MINE!



WH-WHAT? WHO?

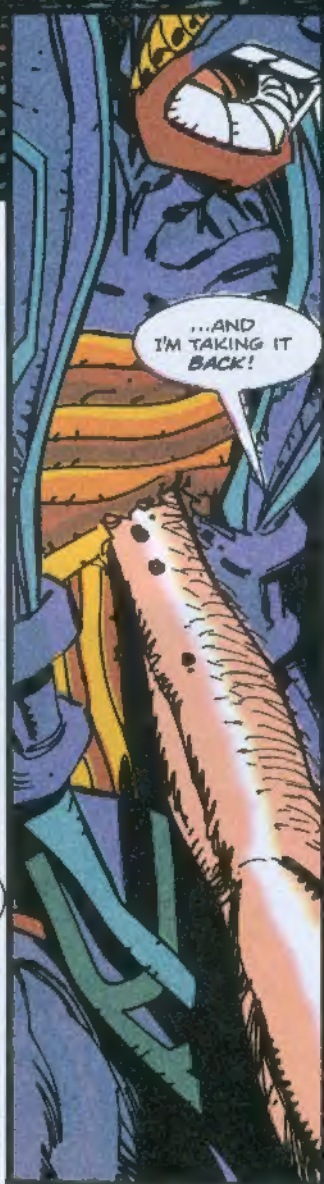
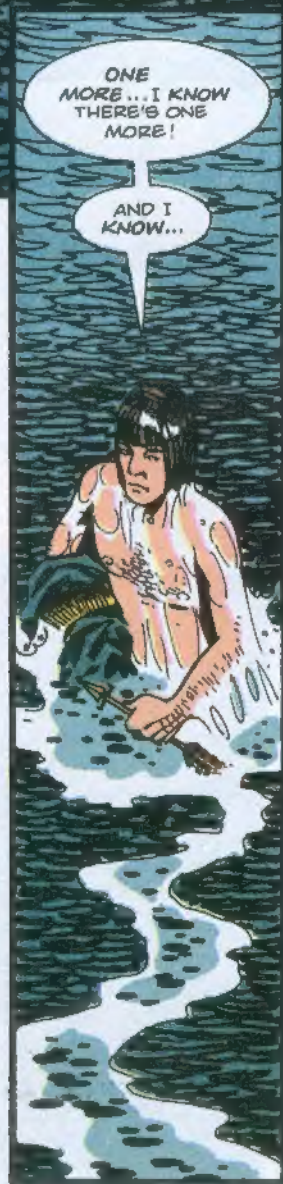


NO MORE, PLEASE! THEY DID... BAD THINGS TO ME, HORRIBLE THINGS, I—

YOU LOVE JAMES IF YOU WISH TO HELP HIM, LISTEN TO ME...

"...THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME!"







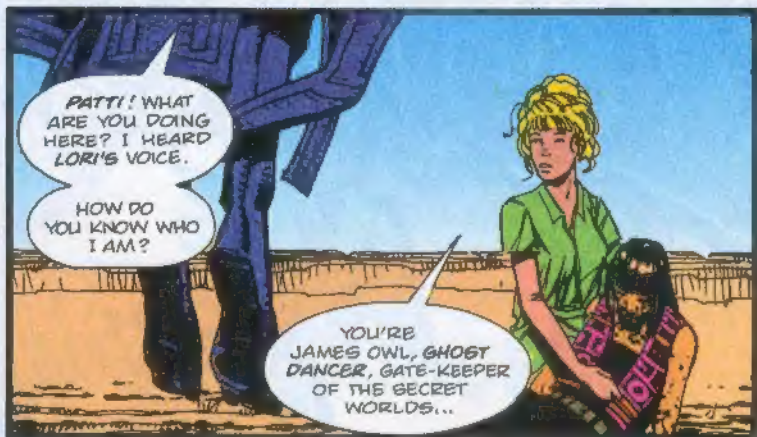
THIS
CAN'T BE!
THE GATEWAY!
WHERE IS
THE—

NNNNNNNN!



JAMES!!

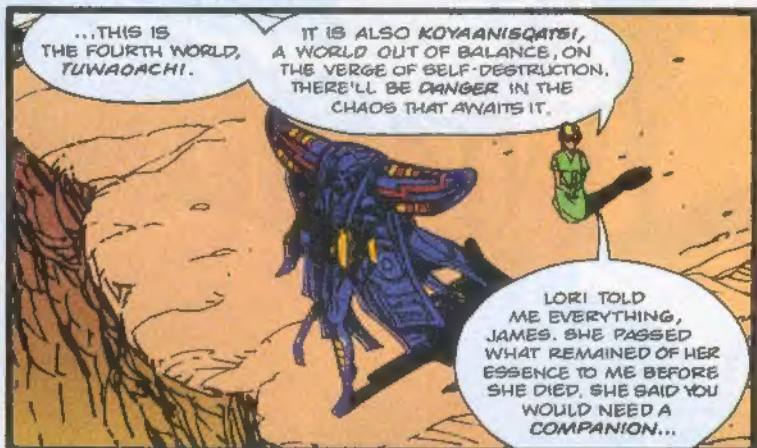
LORI?



PATTI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I HEARD LORI'S VOICE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

YOU'RE JAMES OWL, GHOST DANCER, GATE-KEEPER OF THE SECRET WORLDS...



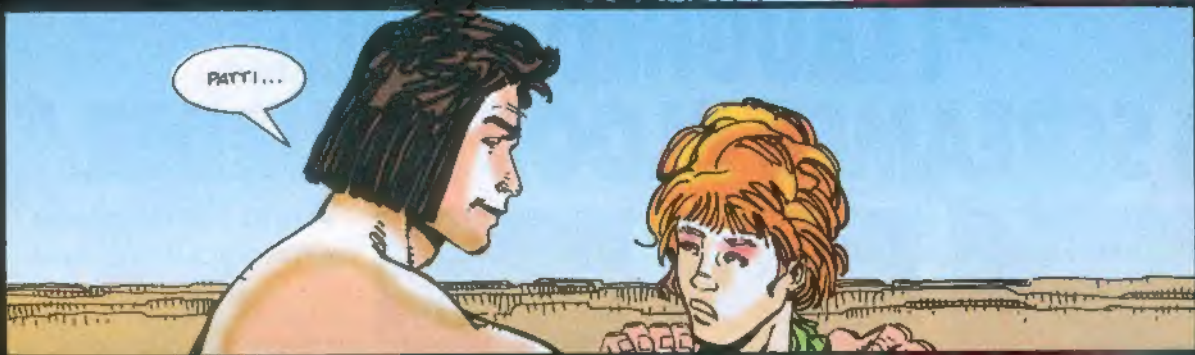
...THIS IS THE FOURTH WORLD, TUWAOACHI.

IT IS ALSO KOYAANISQATSI, A WORLD OUT OF BALANCE, ON THE VERGE OF SELF-DESTRUCTION, THERE'LL BE DANGER IN THE CHAOS THAT AWAITS IT.

LORI TOLD ME EVERYTHING, JAMES. SHE PASSED WHAT REMAINED OF HER ESSENCE TO ME BEFORE SHE DIED. SHE SAID YOU WOULD NEED A COMPANION...



"...IF YOU'LL HAVE ME."



PATTI...

"...LET'S GO."



Chen RA '88